

I thank him for his many decades of serving the Syracuse community.

HONORING WASHINGTON POST EXECUTIVE EDITOR LEONARD DOWNIE JR.

### HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 8, 2008*

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Leonard Downie Jr. for 17 years of service and dedication as the executive editor for The Washington Post. Leonard is widely recognized as one of the great editors of our time.

Mr. Downie began his career for The Washington Post as a summer intern in 1964. He soon established himself as a well-known local investigative reporter in Washington, specializing in crime, courts, housing and urban affairs. To honor his superior reporting, Mr. Downie received two Washington-Baltimore Newspaper Guild Front Page awards, The American Bar Association Gavel Award for legal reporting, and the John Hancock Award for excellent business and financial writing.

Mr. Downie then worked on the Metropolitan staff for 15 years, where he earned the title of deputy metropolitan editor. In 1979, he was named London correspondent. 3 years later, he returned to Washington as national editor, and, in 1984, became the managing editor and director of The Los Angeles Times-Washington Post News Service.

On September 1, 1991, after 7 years as managing editor, Mr. Downie was named executive editor of the Washington Post. Under his guidance, the Post developed into a major online force. His immense talent for investigative journalism was also apparent as the Post won numerous prizes for high-profile expositions, including the secret CIA prisons in Eastern European and the Watergate Scandal. His excellent leadership was rewarded; the post won 25 Pulitzer Prizes under his tenure. Mr. Downie announced his last day at The Washington Post will be on September 9, 2008. Leonard, always modest, summed up his management philosophy in one sentence: "You hire people smarter and more talented than you and enable them to do their best work."

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank Mr. Downie for molding The Washington Post into a dominant news outlet, for his contributions to journalism, and for doing his part to keep our world honest. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on his many successes and in wishing him the best of luck in all future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION GROUP OF ARROW ROCK, MISSOURI

### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 8, 2008*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this opportunity to congratulate the historic preservation group of Arrow Rock, Mis-

souri. In April 2008, Arrow Rock was designated as a Preserve America Community.

Arrow Rock is one of 600 nationwide sites that have earned the designation of being a Preserve America Community. This Federal designation helps in the historic preservation work for communities throughout the United States. Preserve America is focused on providing financial support systems for the non-physical work done in historic preservation communities. The Arrow Rock community will now be able to apply for Federal grants, awards, and other help in research, planning, and training efforts to help in the preservation of their village. First Lady Laura Bush said, in a written statement, "Preserve America Communities demonstrate that they are committed to preserving America's heritage while ensuring a future filled with opportunities for learning and enjoyment."

I am certain that the Members of the House will join me in congratulating the historic preservation group of Arrow Rock for their accomplishments and in wishing them luck in all their future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 6431, DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ELECTRONIC REPORTING ACT

### HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 8, 2008*

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, Electronic Reporting Act. This legislation would require VA to submit to Congress reports required by law in an electronic form.

VA is required to submit numerous reports to Congress on issues ranging from assistance provided to homeless veterans to the establishment of new cemeteries. This fiscal year we will receive over forty reports mandated in title 38, United States Code.

Requiring VA to submit these reports electronically would be more efficient and reduce paper waste. It would also maximize the utility of the information created, collected, and provided to Congress in these reports.

Madam Speaker, VA submits thousands of pages of reports to Congress each year and I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join me in this effort to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of government information management.

HONORING THE GARDEN CITY COUGARS

### HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 8, 2008*

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge the Garden City Cougars, champion women's high school softball team, upon reaching Garden City High School's first team State title.

The Cougars, a MHSAA Division 1 team, were determined to achieve victory this season. Led by Head Coach, Barry Patterson and Assistant Coaches, Al Russell, Mark Minch,

and Chuck Drewicz, the Cougars were on the prowl; knocking teams out of the tournament bracket left and right. The final game was a nail-biter. With two outs and a 2-2 count, senior Hallie Minch slammed the game winning hit, driving in teammate Katie Torok to make the final score 2 to 1.

The Cougars season rounded out to 32 wins and 6 losses after the championship game on June 14, 2008. To seniors, Hallie Minch, Christina Seward, Katie Torok, Stacey Brickan, Kristina Susalla, Tricia York, Breannea King, and Karen Greficz; juniors, Shannon Pietruska, Katelyn Shattleroe, Jenniger Leone, Melissa Dimitrijevic, Amanda Quartz; sophomore Allison Chiti, and Freshmen, Carley Shattleroe and Naomi Oxendine, the thrill of softball will have given them an unforgettable day on Bailey Field.

Madam Speaker, the Garden City Cougars deserve to be recognized for their determination, achievement, and spirit. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Garden City Cougars for obtaining this spectacular title and honoring their devotion to our community and country.

RECOGNIZING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, DISASTER RECOVERY AND RELIEF EFFORTS IN MADISON COUNTY

### HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 8, 2008*

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and recognize the extraordinary contributions of emergency management, disaster response, and recovery personnel as well as elected officials and community leaders in my district which was devastated by the recent severe weather in Indiana.

I wish particularly to honor the Board of Commissioners, County Council, and all the other outstanding individuals in Madison County who rose to the occasion during these difficult times. This area suffered greatly from severe storms and weather, creating a catastrophe of nature that inflicted injuries, destroyed property, and displaced many of our citizens. In response, these officials went above and beyond the call of duty, showing great poise while saving many lives and serving the people of their communities.

Madam Speaker, I commend these fine men and women for their tremendous dedication to the Hoosier families, businesses, farmers and communities that they serve. As Hoosiers continue to recover from Mother Nature's fury, I feel confident that the people of Madison County will be well served by these officials.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA TRIEFF

### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 8, 2008*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Mrs. Barbara Trieff, an English and journalism teacher at Interstate 35 High School in Truro, Iowa, on the occasion of her retirement. I also wish to express my appreciation for Barbara's dedication and commitment to the youth of Iowa.